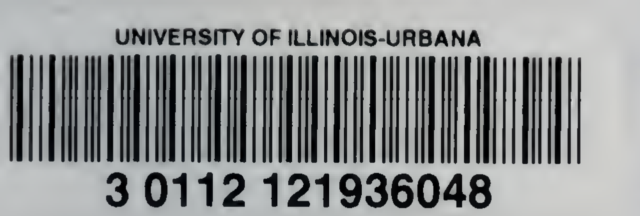
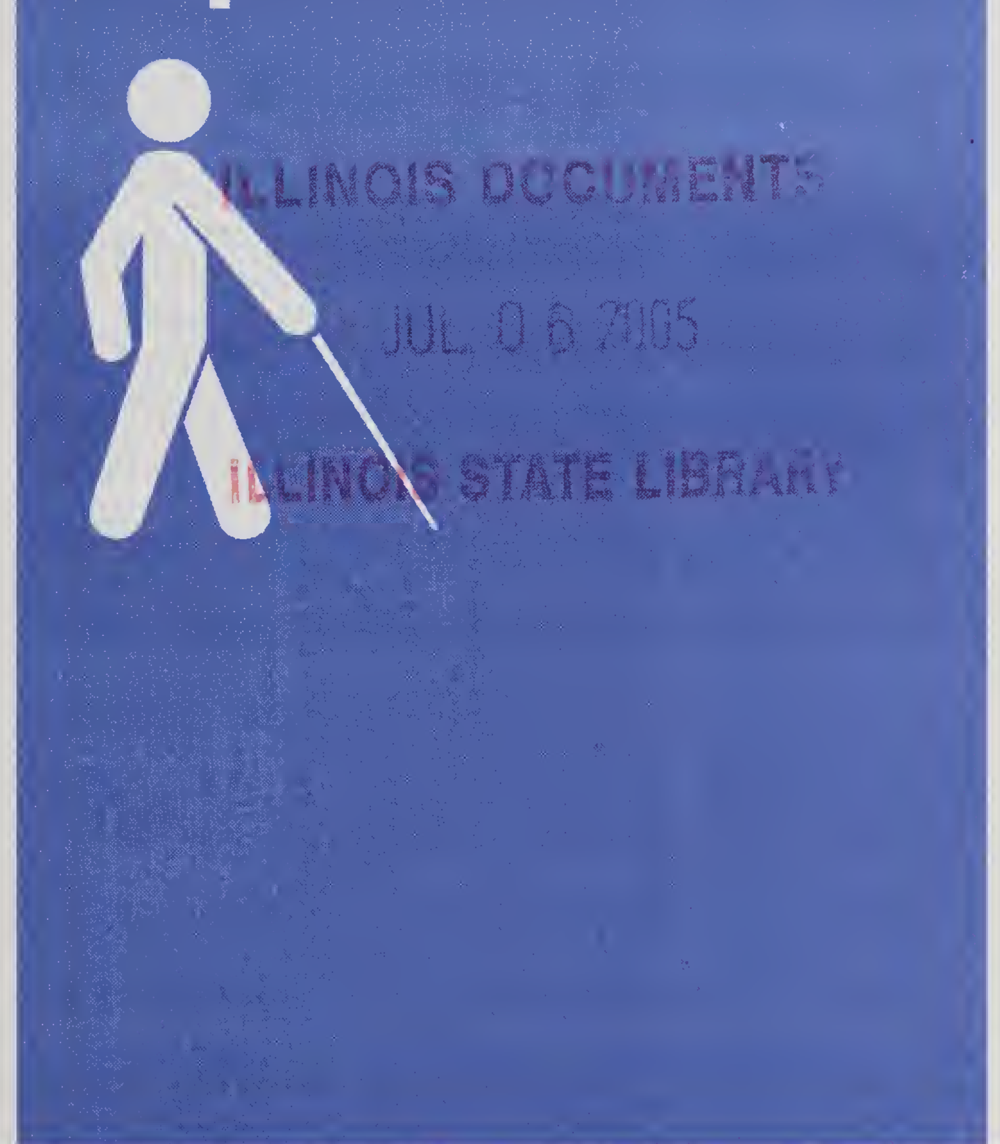


Department of Human Services
Division of Rehabilitation Services
Bureau of Blind Services
400 W. Lawrence
Springfield, IL 62794

inois
.gojevich, Governor
...nt of Human Services
Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary

Specialized Services for Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired









through Specialized Services for Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired

The Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Rehabilitation Services (DHS/DRS) is the state's lead agency serving persons with disabilities. Our staff work one-on-one with individuals who have disabilities and their families to empower them to reach their employment, education, and independent living goals.

We recognize that individuals who are blind or lose their vision later in life often need assistance adjusting to their disability.

The DHS/DRS' Bureau of Blind Services (BBS) operates four programs for adults with vision impairments. These programs are designed to help individuals participate more independently in their family and community life.

BBS teams deliver "World Class Customer Service" to individuals across Illinois. Each year, thousands of Illinois residents rediscover their independence and freedom through participation in BBS programs.

Vocational Rehabilitation Program

BBS staff work in partnership with our customers to help them:

- Find employment,
- Maintain employment, and
- Achieve education and training goals.

Community-based Instructional Program

Rehabilitation Instructors and Orientation and Mobility Instructors teach independent living skills at the person's home, school, workplace or other community site. Services include:

- Adjusting to vision loss,
- Mobility training,
- Communication skills,
- Homemaking skills, and
- Use of technology.

Individuals over 55 are also served through our Older Blind Program.

Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education-Wood (ICRE-W)

Some customers may benefit from our more concentrated program in a residential center in Chicago.

The Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education-Wood (ICRE-W) provides pre-vocational and independent skills training.

Independent living classes are also offered to older adults who live within a commuting distance.

BBS services are available to Illinois residents who have a vision impairment.

DHS/DRS' Bureau of Blind Services Central Office:
217-785-3887 (V/TTY)
217-524-1235 (FAX)

Business Enterprise Program for the Blind (BEPB)

Located at ICRE-Wood, the BEPB offers management opportunities in the food service industry.

Individuals with vision impairments operate vending facilities in public buildings, community colleges, gift shops and highway rest areas statewide.

The program's six-month training course includes on-the-job training. Blind vendors average more than $40,000 a year in earnings.



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For more information: Call or visit your Illinois Department of Human Services DRS office or Family Community Resource Center (FCRC).

If you have questions about any Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) program, call or visit your local IDHS/DRS office or FCRC. We will answer your questions. If you do not know where your office is or if you are unable to go there, you may call the automated helpline 24 hours a day at:

1-800-843-6154
1-800-447-6404 (TTY)

You may speak to a representative between:
8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday (except state holidays)

For answers to your questions, you may also write:
Illinois Department of Human Services
Bureau of Customer and Provider Assistance
100 South Grand Avenue East
Springfield, Illinois 62762

Visit our web site at:
www.dhs.state.il.us